GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND NEO NATAL DEATHS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the maternal mortality rate in rural and urban areas in the country, separately during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the number of neo-natal deaths in India is very high;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to bring down the maternal mortality rate and neo-natal deaths in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 165 FOR 10TH DECEMBER, 2008

(a): The Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs, brings out estimates of maternal and neo-natal mortality. The last Report titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 - Trends, Causes and Risk Factors" released by RGI in the year 2006, provides estimates on maternal mortality ratios (MMR) for India and major States. Such reports are released by RGI from time to time and the previous report relates to 1998-99. The latest report indicates that the MMR for India has shown a decline from 398 per 100,000 live births in 1997-98 to 301 per 100,000 live births during 2001-03. The MMR of India and the Major states is at Annexure I.

(b) & (c): As per the estimates released through the Sample Registration System, 2006 by the Registrar General of India, the neo-natal mortality rate (NMR) at the national level is 37 per 1000 live births. The NMR for India and the Major states is at Annexure II.

(d): With a view to promoting maternal and child health, the Government implemented the Reproductive and Child Health programme, Phase-I (RCH-I) for a period of five years, since 1997-98. The programme has been extended further in Phase II for another period of five years from 2004-05. The RCH programme was integrated under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in April 2005. The National Rural Health Mission seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable section. It also seeks to reduce maternal mortality ratio to 100 per 100,000 live births and infant mortality to 30 within the Mission period ending in 2012. NRHM has pro-poor focus and integrates all the stand-alone programmes into a single composite Programme. In order to bring about a reduction in maternal mortality, neo-natal and infant mortality, the Government of India is implementing several key strategies and interventions as listed at Annexure III.